

Community Advisory Panel Meeting Summary
Green Point Nature Center
Saginaw
January 7, 2004
4:30 p.m.

Attendees: Dave Bean, Mary Jo Bean, Len Ballosh, Drummond Black, Vince Castellanos, Robert Cowling, Betty Damore, Kevin Datte, Garret Geer, Becky Goche, Mark Gottleber, Kathy Henry, Michelle Hurd Riddick, Mike Krecek, Jim Lewis, Kathie Marchlewski, Terry Miller, Betty Owen, Rob St. Mary, Douglas Spencer, John Taylor, William Webber, Greg Whitney, Mary Whitney and Melissa Whitney.

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) staff in attendance: Allan Brouillet, Brenda Brouillet, Steve Buda, Ginny Himich, Deb MacKenzie-Taylor, Trisha Peters, Liane Shekter Smith, Al Taylor and Terry Walkington.

Department of Community Health (DCH) staff in attendance: Kory Groetsch.

Department of Agriculture (DAg) staff in attendance: Brian Hughes.

Opening Remarks, Introductions, Meeting Ground Rules, and Where We Are on the "Roadmap" from a Regulatory Perspective

George Bruchmann, DEQ, Waste and Hazardous Materials Division (WHMD), Chief welcomed everyone to the fifth meeting of the Community Advisory Panel (CAP) and asked agency staff and attendees to introduce themselves.

Approval of Previous CAP Meeting Summary

Due to illness, Cheryl Howe was unable to complete the draft summary for the December 3, 2003, CAP meeting in time to distribute it for review. It will be sent out prior to the next CAP meeting.

Overview of December 11 Farmers Outreach Meeting

Brian Hughes, DAg, briefly summarized a December 11, 2003, meeting conducted by the DAg to provide an outreach and education opportunity to farmers conducting farm operations in the Tittabawassee River floodplain and adjacent areas. Preliminary results from the crop sampling done to date indicate that dioxin levels of corn and soy from high dioxin level soils were at background levels.

Discussion on DAg authority regarding contaminated agricultural products:

- DAg statutory authority is only triggered by contaminated commercial products.
- The DAg has no authority to remove land from production.
- The DAg can quarantine commercial animals raised on contaminated property.

A CAP member commented on the meeting and criticized the manner in which the soil dioxin concentrations were characterized by a presenter as not significant. The CAP member also stated that the question of who will compensate farmers for land lost to production due to contamination was not answered.

Discussion of Education/Outreach Needs and Strategies

Liane Shekter Smith, WHMD, conducted this discussion. Points made:

- The DAg is willing to hold additional meetings if needed.
- The DEQ requests CAP participants to provide input on agenda items for CAP meetings.
- CAP members recommended that Dow update the CAP regarding the list of issues Dow summarized on flip charts during the September 3, 2003, CAP meeting.
- Need additional education targeted to occupational exposures of maintenance workers and utility workers.
- Real Estate workshop ideas discussed included:
 - Agenda must attract a broad audience.
 - DEQ presentation to the Board of Realtors might be efficient approach.

Open Discussion on the CAP Process to Date

There was an open discussion regarding how the CAP members felt the CAP process has been working. Points made during this discussion:

- CAP members requested a copy of the DEQ dioxin advisory letter recently sent to schools in the tri county area.
- A member expressed concern that the DEQ letter had not been shared with local health departments prior to mailing, making it difficult for the health departments to advise citizens regarding the letter.
- A member recommended that the Michigan High School Athletics Association be considered as an education outreach opportunity to inform students.

Wrap-up

Thanks to the Greenpoint Nature Center for providing the meeting place and to Lone Tree Council for providing snacks for this meeting. The next CAP meeting was scheduled for 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 4, 2004, at the Saginaw Township Firehall #1. (Note: the February 4, 2004, meeting was later cancelled due to demands on DEQ staff time to work on the Dow Scopes of Work and rescheduled for March 10, 2004.)

The meeting was adjourned at about 7:00 p.m.